



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



James T. Fleming
Commissioner

TESTIMONY
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
on
HOUSE BILL 5741 AN ACT CONCERNING PREVAILING WAGE
THRESHOLDS

The Department of Public Works ('DPW') **supports** HB 5741.

This bill raises the prevailing wage thresholds on public construction projects for new construction from \$400,000 to \$1 million and for renovation projects from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Given that these thresholds have been in place since 1991, some 15 years ago, it makes sense to raise the thresholds to take into account inflation and other economic factors.

In addition to the economic benefit, such a change would have a two-fold cost benefit to the DPW. First, DPW will be able to get more construction work accomplished using the same amount of funds. In essence DPW will be able to stretch our construction dollars further. Second, a significant amount of administrative burden will be eliminated both for state contractors as well as state awarding authorities. The preparation and review of certified payroll documents is a time consuming and onerous process.

Finally, increasing the prevailing wage thresholds will provide more opportunities for small minority and women owned contractors to compete for state business.

Should you have any questions concerning the DPW's testimony, please contact Douglas J. Moore, Legislative Program Manager, DPW at (860) 713-5885.